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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: De Francesco et al.

Serial No.: 10/085,476

Case No.: IT0002PCA

Art Unit:

Filed: February 27, 2002

Examiner:

For: METHOD FOR REPRODUCING IN VITRO THE
RNA-DEPENDENT RNA POLYMERASE AND
TERMINAL NUCLEOTIDYL TRANSFERASE
ACTIVITIES ENCODED BY HEPATITIS C VIRUS
(HCV)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment

Sir:

Please amend the specification by inserting an abstract on a separate page after the claims,
as follows:

--Abstract

The present invention relates to the molecular biology and virology of the hepatitis C virus (HCV). An object of the present invention is a method to reproduce *in vitro* the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase activity of HCV that makes use of sequences contained in the HCV NS5B protein.--

37 C.F.R. 1.8 Certificate of Mailing

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MERCK & CO., INC.

MAILED BY

Shelli Kline

DATE: 4-23-02

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Remarks

The present amendment adds an abstract. Support for the abstract can be found in the originally filed application, for example, on page 1, line 5-6 and page 3, lines 33-36.

Please charge deposit account 13-2755 for fees due in connection with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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